

Atty. Dkt. No. 036258-0201

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1 and 12 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-21 are now pending in this application.

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because the abstract was too long. Applicant is submitting a new Abstract to replace the previously submitted Abstract. The objection to the abstract should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant will, if appropriate, file a terminal disclaimer after an indication of allowance has been issued.

Claim 1-4, 6-9, 11-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,182,142 to Win et al. (hereinafter "Win"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to methods and systems for provisioning users with resources. According to an embodiment of a method, the provisioning includes determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to a particular user based on received user role information, organizational information, and attribute information. The method includes "determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable" to a particular user and

Atty. Dkt. No. 036258-0201

“provisioning the user with resources based on the applicable resource provisioning policies.” As described in the specification, the embodiments of the present invention allow provisioning of “hard” resources. In this regard, “hard” resources include telephones, computers, cellular telephones, pagers, personal digital assistants, desks, chairs, file cabinets, other physical components and the like. See Spec., paragraph [0017]. Thus, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 12, “the resources include at least one hard resource.”

By contrast, the cited reference fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, Win discloses a method of controlling access to information resources, or soft resources, only. The disclosed system of Win allows administrators to implement access rules by defining roles for users. Once a role is assigned to a user, the provisioning of soft resources is determined based on the access rules. Win fails to teach or suggest “provisioning the user with resources ..., wherein the resources include at least one hard resource.”

The Office Action cites Win as disclosing provisioning of hard resources at col. 14, lines 64-67. However, the cited passage relates only to stored information relating to the soft resources provisioned to the user. Specifically, Win states:

An administrator may complete and submit the data entry form for each resource to be defined in the system 2 and protected by the system. In response, Registry Server 108 stores information defining the resource in the Registry Repository 110. Each resource is defined by a resource identifier value, a resource name, a description, a Web server, a Relative URL, and a list of protected resources.

Thus, the passage cited by in the Office Action only describes the definition, for identification purposes of soft resources. For example, the Web server is not a hard resource provisioned to the user, but rather a location, for example, of the provisioned soft resource. Thus, Win fails to disclose provisioning of any hard resources.

Since Win fails to teach or suggest at least that feature of independent claims 1 and 12, claims 1 and 12 are patentable. Claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11 depend, either directly or indirectly, from

Atty. Dkt. No. 036258-0201

allowable claim 1, and claims 13-15 and 17-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 12. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13-15 and 17-20 are patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Claim 5, 10, 16 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Win in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,548 to Cheng. Claims 5 and 10 depend indirectly from allowable claim 1, and claims 16 and 21 depend indirectly from allowable claim 12. Claims 5, 10, 16 and 21 are patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Atty. Dkt. No. 036258-0201

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10-8-04

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